



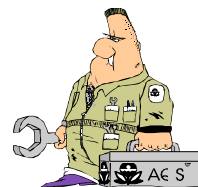
The AIRSLetter is a quarterly publication produced by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards, Information Transfer & Program Integration Division. It is intended to provide information and emerging issues related to the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS).

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## Re-engineering is the Conference Theme

by Ed Lillis



Re-engineering is the theme for this year's Airs Conference. If you are a routine reader of the AIRSLETTER, you have probably been keeping up with the progress we are making with the modernization of the AQS subsystem. We plan to have a demonstration of the new AQS at the AIRS Conference in April. Most of the AQS sessions at the conference will focus on various aspects of the new AQS system. Please come to the AIRS Conference and give us your comments on the design of the new AQS and your ideas for fine tuning it.

We are also planning on discussing our plans with respect to data management for emissions, compliance and permit data. A memo will soon go out to the EPA Regions, as well as State and local agencies outlining our plans. We hope to discuss these plans and get your input at the Conference.

Briefly, for emissions data, we plan to transition from the AFS as the repository for emissions data to the National Emissions Trends (NET) data base over the next few years. The NET data base is being modified to be compatible with the EIIP data transfer format that has recently been developed by the jointly sponsored EPA-STAPPA/ALAPCO Emission Inventory Improvement Program (EIIP) team.

States have been asked to submit their 1996 periodic inventory to EPA in either EIIP or AFS format. Data submitted in EIIP format will be uploaded into the NET, but not into AFS. Data

submitted into AFS will be also be uploaded into the NET. With time, we expect the NET to be our primary emissions data base. We plan to continue to enhance the NET over time and we want to obtain your input. This is a major change for data management of emissions data that will have an impact on agencies that are direct users of AFS. We plan to continue to operate AFS for the next 2-4 years, the time we estimate that it will take to develop new systems.

We are also exploring a number of options with respect to compliance and permit data. One question we will be seeking input on is whether we should continue to store emissions and compliance data in the same data system or whether these data could be in separate, though linked data systems. OECA will soon be initiating a users requirements analysis to determine how the compliance portion of AFS should be modernized.

As you can see, there are some major re-engineering issues to be discussed at the AIRS Conference. We hope that each EPA Regional Office and State and local is represented to provide their input.

## AIRS Conference Registration Deadline Near

*By Jerry Husketh*

The '97 National AIRS Conference is just ahead! And that brings to mind several items I feel I must advise you of. The conference registration list is hovering at 175 which tells me that lots of folks aren't aware of the potential headache they may face at the registration desk on site at the conference. If we know of your registration ahead of time, your conference packet which includes your portfolio, name badge, name tent, session handouts, evaluation forms, agendas, maps and information of interest will be waiting for you. If not, we must do this on-site at considerable delay and expense. You also run the risk of non-availability, not to mention the long lines. Since there is no conference registration fee, why not register ahead with us, even if your attendance is uncertain? The registration form is included in this issue and lists FAX numbers for your convenience.

The second item I want to remind you of is the hotel information. Because Washington, DC is an attractive tourist area in the spring, we were unable to reserve all the rooms at a single hotel. A room block of 200 has been reserved for the host hotel, The Renaissance at 999 9th St., NW, phone 202/898-9000. Blocks of 50 rooms are reserved at the Grand Hyatt, 1000 H St., NW, phone 202/582-1234 and at the Crowne Plaza at 14th & K Sts., NW, phone 202/682-0111. An additional room block of 75 rooms has been reserved at the Renaissance Mayflower, 1127 Connecticut Ave, NW, phone 202/347-3000. All of the hotels will offer the single rate of \$124/night, tax included. The cut-off date for all of the hotels is **MARCH 28, 1997**.

Thirdly, regarding the annual retreat, we are planning a special trolley tour of Washington on Wednesday evening, April 23rd from 6:30 until 10:30 p.m. The tour will begin with a stop at Union Station so you can buy dinner (or shop) - then proceed at 7:30 to visit a number of monuments including the Jefferson, Lincoln, Washington, and Vietnam War memorials as well as others. This will be an exceptional opportunity to see D.C.'s most famous landmarks at night, so plan to join us. It should be delightful weather and the cherry-blossoms should still be in bloom. Tickets are specially priced for us at \$16 (normally \$22) and will be available at the conference registration desk. The tour will be limited to 200 people (family and friends are welcome), so you'll need to sign up early.

I'm looking forward once again to a great crowd at a great conference. See you there!

## Future of AIRS Graphics and AIRS EXEC Revealed

*by Tom Link*

Soon, all of the AIRS Graphics programs and functions will be INTERNET-based and available to anyone with INTERNET access and a Web Browser. Functionality will be enhanced by adding street level mapping and user-customization features. AG web pages will provide the user with a variety of graphic and data selection options that the user will submit for query to the AIRS database on the ORACLE server. Our AG mapping program will process the data and return the geographical map or other graphic (wind rose, time series plot, etc.) through the web browser interface.

AIRS Executive for Windows PC program will be replaced by AIRSWeb, again, a wholly INTERNET-based application. (Eventually, AIRSWeb will also include all of the functionality of AIRS Graphics/INTERNET discussed above.) The first portion of AIRSWeb is scheduled to roll out later this spring.

The next generation of AIRS Executive PC programs will be one PC product named AIRS Executive PLUS--which is currently in development. AIRS Exec PLUS will be CD-ROM based, produced quarterly, and includes AIRS Exec USA for Windows, AIRS Exec International for Windows and includes EFIG's National Emission Inventory as an alternative or optional-use emission source database, in addition to the default for AIRS/AFS.

## Year 2000 Brings Challenge to AIRS

by Chuck Isbell

### Background

As we approach the turn of the century, the Year 2000 poses critical problems for computer data systems. Most data bases and software have been coded with only two digits to identify the year which assumes that the two digits are prefaced with 19.

For this reason it's been said that the Year 2000 is a "global time bomb" timed to go off at midnight on December 31, 1999. Perhaps you even have grand visions of the "big bang" where our information technology age comes crashing down around our heads at the stroke of midnight. No one can predict how big the "bang" will be, but we do know that time is of the essence. There are only 33 months until the time bomb explodes!



It is safe to say that for many computer systems the bomb will not wait until December 31, 1999, but will explode when users begin to enter and process data for the 21st Century. For example, an AFS compliance user enters a prospective action with a completion date of December 31, 2002 (02/12/31). Currently, the system will think the action was achieved 95 years ago (i.e., 1902).

One research group estimates that more than \$600 billion will be spent worldwide to migrate technology to the Year 2000. The same group estimates that \$100 billion will be spent in the U.S., more than \$30 billion of which the Federal Government alone will spend. The problem affects most mainframe applications and databases, such as AIRS, as well as your home computer, your work computer, and almost every other information technology that you deal with on a daily basis. This includes your charge cards, banks, insurance companies, etc.

### New EPA Date Standard

The EPA has pending a new Agency standard for date in data processing applications. This new standard will require EPA systems to be Year 2000 "Compliant" by providing for the accurate use of dates during systems operations and to provide a numeric representation of calendar date (ccyyymmdd) to facilitate the interchange of data among information systems. The difference is a 4-digit year field instead of the current 2-digit field

### AIRS

So is AIRS just one big time bomb just waiting for the 21st century? Well, no, but it does have some problems that we plan to resolve long before the midnight hour. Here's a look at AIRS by subsystems.

#### Air Quality Subsystem (AQS)

The AQS is not Year 2000 compliant, but the new re-engineered AQS that is being developed is. The new re-engineered AQS will eliminate the need to modify the existing AQS to be Year 2000 compliant.

#### Geographic Common Subsystem (GCS)

The GCS is not fully Year 2000 compliant. (GeoCommon is the AIRS subsystem of geographical/pollutant, etc. codes and table files that support the other AIRS subsystems.) GeoCommon will undergo some reprogramming this year to make it fully Year 2000 compliant.

#### AIRS Graphics and AIRS Exec

AIRS Graphics (AG) is not fully Year 2000 compliant, but the future calls for AG to be replaced by Internet web pages. The new web pagers will provide the user with a variety of graphic and data selection options that the user will submit for query to the AIRS database.

Continued from "Year 2000 Brings Challenge to AIRS" - page 3

The new AIRS Executive for Windows PC program is Year 2000 compliant. The DOS version of AIRS EXEC is not compliant, but the DOS version is to be phased out at the end of 1997. (See Tom Link's article "Future of AIRS Graphics and AIRS Exec Revealed" on page 2).

**AIRS Facility Subsystem (AFS)**

The AFS is not fully Year 2000 compliant. (More recent software such as the permits module is Year 2000 compliant.) To determine the magnitude of the Year 2000 problem in AFS, a scoping study is being prepared. This will provide an accurate estimate of the reprogramming effort.

Although we generally agree with EPA's new standard, we believe that full implementation of the standard for a large system like AFS would not be cost-effective. A waiver will be requested to allow a simpler "Band-Aid" fix for resolving the Year 2000 problem in AFS.

Such an enhancement would allow AFS to retain its current 2-digit year externally, but internally recognize the century to provide the proper computation and sorting by date, etc. New software would accomplish this by editing the 2-digit year to determine which century applies (i.e., <50 is the 21st century,  $\leq 50$  is the 20th century).

This "Band-Aid" fix will enable us to retain the 2-digit year on the internal database files, the input screens, and the fixed format reports. Another benefit will be leaving the 2-digit year on the batch transaction formats, which prevents State converters from being modified to support the new century year formats.

Earlier I mentioned that time is critical and that AFS needs to be modified to be Year 2000 compliant even before the clock strikes midnight. We are working to obtain FY'97 funding to begin the software reprogramming effort. Our goal is to have AFS compliant within a year once funding is appropriated.

**Additional Information**

Additional information on Year 2000 may be found on the Internet. Here are a few addresses that you may choose to browse.

<http://it2000.com> (National Bulletin Board for Year 2000)  
<http://www.year2000.com>  
<http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/home1.htm>

The EPA's Enterprise Technology Services Division's Home Page has a section devoted to Year 2000 and has several articles that you may choose to browse as well.

<http://epawww.epa.gov/etsd>

**AIRS Helpline Change**

*by Jonathan Miller*

Due to customer request, the voice response unit (VRU) that is used by Lockheed-Martin will be disabled beginning April 1, 1997. The main number (1-800-334-2405) will remain the same. However, there will no longer be the automated menu that directs you to extension 4-2-2 for AIRS support. Instead, the phone will be answered by a real person who will either answer your question or direct you to the subject matter experts.

Hopefully this will result in better service for our end users. Please let us know what you think of the new service. Comments and suggestions can be sent to Michael Hamlin at (919) 541-5232 or via e-mail at [Hamlin.Michael@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Hamlin.Michael@epamail.epa.gov).

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**NOTE:** "Internet Access to AIRS" is a reprint of an articles that appeared in the Winter '96 Edition of the AIRSLetter. The original release had many typographical errors that our alert readers made us aware of. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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## Internet Access to AIRS

by Jonathan Miller

Internet access to AIRS is becoming a popular alternative to dial-up access. Several people have reported success in using the following software. Please be advised that this software is freeware and is neither supported nor maintained by EPA. If you are not familiar with installation of new software on your PC, it is suggested that you obtain help from the person in your area who normally installs new software.

QWS3270 is a Winsock 3270 Telnet package that Internet users can use to access AIRS. The software uses your IP address and Winsock.dll to establish connection to epaibm.rtpnc.epa.gov and gives users full screen access to other IBM applications such as ISPF, and STORET. The software can be obtained via anonymous FTP from Queen's University at Kingston.

**NOTE:** This software does not support file transfers and does not display graphics (AIRSGraphics).

Minimum Requirements for the software:

- ◆ 386 PC running Windows 3.1 or higher, and
- ◆ IP connection (either direct or through and Internet provider)

### Downloading QWS3270:

1. Make a directory on your PC for QWS3270:  
**mkdir c:\qws3270**
2. Connect to ftp.ccs.queensu.ca via anonymous FTP  
Note: If you are using Netscape, typw the following url: ftp://ftp.ccs.queensu.ca, then follow the links to **//pub/win3/winsock/qws3270.zip**, click "save to disk," and save to the **c:\qws3270** directory.  
If you are using a package such as WS\_FTP, enter the hostname: ftp.ccs.queensu.ca and user-id (anonymous) and password (your E-mail address), then follow the directions below.
3. Go to **/pub/win3/winsock** and download the zipped binary file **qws3270.zip** to **c:\qws3270**.

### Installation:

1. Go to the **c:\qws3270** directory and use an unzip tool, such as **PKUNZIP**, to decompress the file.  
**Note:** **PKUNZIP** is available at **http://www.epa.gov**. Click on "Software" near the bottom of the page, then click on "Freely Available Utilities: near the bottom of the Software page, and then click on "Self-Extracting PC EXE file = PKUNZIP" After downloading **PKZIP2.04** as **pkz204g.exe**, type **pkz204g** to decompress the file.
2. Execute the following statements:  
**c:\>cd qws3270**  
**c:\qws3270>pkunzip qws 3270.zip**
3. After unzipping the file, go back into Window's Program Manager to create an icon for QWS3270.
4. To create the new icon, highlight **F**ile, **N**ew..., **P**rogram Item.
5. Program Item Description:  
Description: **QWS3270**  
Command Line: **c:\qws3270\qws3270.exe**  
Working Directory: **c:\qws3270**

**Execution (Note:** If you are using a third party Internet provider, establish your Internet connection before starting QWS3270)

1. Double click the QWS3270 icon.
2. Click on **C**onnect
3. Host: **epaibm.rtpnc.epa.gov** Port: **23** Language File: **English (U.S.)**
4. Click "OK".

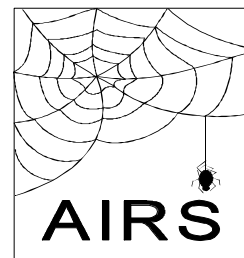
Continued from "Internet Access to AIRS" - page 5

This will bring you to the EPA IBM Mainframe screen that you are probably used to seeing. You have the ability to change the keyboard configuration and system colors if you wish (using "Help"). Please keep in mind this software does not allow you to transfer files, nor use AIRSGraphics, but you get what you pay for!! There are plenty of software packages available that give you this additional functionality, but not for free. If you have any questions, please give someone in the Information Management Group or the AIRS Help Line (1-800-334-2405) a call. Or send a note via e-mail to Miller.Jonathan@epamail.epa.gov.

## Software to FTP to AIRS Found

by Bill Frietsche

Another type of Internet capability is FTP, or file transfer protocol. You can use FTP and the Internet to send files back and forth between computers. Of course, both computers need to be on the Internet to take advantage of this capability. Additionally, you need FTP software. Here is where you can find free software that works well.



Use Netscape or some other Web browser to go to the following URL:

<http://www.ipswitch.com>

This company provides free FTP software for non-commercial (government) users. Follow the directions on their homepage. You will go to their download directory, and get the software entitled WS\_FTP Limited Edition. Here is a description from their web page:

WS\_FTP Limited Edition (Version 4.12)

Original WS\_FTP file transfer client for Windows 3.x, 95, NT. Free to qualified non-commercial users - others must download WS\_FTP Pro for evaluation and purchase.

If you have this package working, as well as the Telnet software referenced in the other article, then you will be able to work on-line as well as via batch with AIRS over the Internet.

## AIRS via INTERNET

from the AIRS Home Page

Some of you have asked if there is a way to use AIRS (run reports, produce graphics) over the Internet. The short answer is yes, but let's elaborate on that just a bit.

### What do you mean by "via Internet"?

AIRS is anchored firmly to the IBM mainframe computer. It's not a virtual entity that circulates through "cyber-space" like e-mail. So, what we are talking about here is using the Internet as a telecommunications link between you and EPA's mainframe. We are talking about a substitute for, say, a modem and telephone lines.

### Why would I want to use the Internet?

There are several reasons you might want to use the Internet instead of a traditional dial-up connection via modem:

- SPEED. Even the slowest segments of the Internet push those bits around at 4 times the speed of common modems, and some segments run 80 times as fast.

Continued from "AIRS via Internet" - page 6

- **COST.** If you have to pay long distance telephone tolls to access AIRS, you can save money using a "free" Internet connection. [That's one paid for by someone else, such as an university or a State government. Like most other things in life, Internet connections aren't really "free"!]
- **CONVENIENCE.** It may be easier to do common things, such as transferring files, using the Internet.
- **FLEXIBILITY.** You may be able to access AIRS from types of equipment (Unix work station, for example) that would be difficult to use with a modem.

**What do I need in order to use the Internet?**

The obvious requirement is access to the Internet. You have to be able to connect your PC to the Internet. Another requirement is software to manage Internet communications and provide terminal emulation.

**How do I get connected to the Internet?**

Internet connections come in three flavors:

- A network connection means that a cable attached to your PC or work station attaches (perhaps through several intermediate LAN connections) to a network that is part of the Internet. Your PC or work station runs TCP/IP software to enable connection with the network.
- TCP/IP stands for Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, a set of electronic and low-level software conventions used to standardize data transmission on all the individual networks that make up the Internet. This is the best type of connection to have, if you can get it, because transmission speed is high and you have access to the full range of Internet services. A network connection is very expensive (several thousands of dollars per month), but the direct cost you may be practically nothing since your organization or department probably includes this cost in the operating budget.
- A SLIP/PPP attaches your PC via modem to a special communications server that is directly attached to the Internet. Your PC runs SLIP or PPP software to connect with the server. [SLIP stands for Serial Line Interface Protocol, and PPP stands for Point-to-Point Protocol.] These are, in essence, methods of converting TCP/IP data to formats compatible with modems. This is basically a slower version of a network connection, the link between you and the Internet is at modem speeds rather than LAN speeds. However, you still have access to a full range of Internet services. You buy a SLIP/PPP connection from an access provider in your city, usually for around \$20-30 per month.
- An indirect connection attaches your PC to another computer that has a connection to the Internet. Your PC runs telecommunications software to access the remote computer. Once connected, you run a program on that computer to access the Internet. You might say this is a connection "once removed" (like those obscure cousins at family reunions), because you are communicating with a computer that is attached to the Internet, rather than your PC being directly connected. For example, you might dial into a local university computer and tell it (by running a program) to connect through the Internet to the EPA computer. Then what you type on your PC is relayed through the university computer to the EPA computer, and vice versa. With this type of connection, you are limited to the types of Internet services available on the university computer. For example, it is unlikely that a graphics terminal emulation will be available. If you transfer a file from the EPA computer, it goes to the university computer, not to your PC. But, hey, you get a free, fast, reliable connection with the EPA computer.

**OK, what kind of software do I need?**

That depends. For an indirect connection, all you need is PC communications software that is compatible with the local computer system you connect with.

Continued from "AIRS via Internet" - pages 6-7

For network and SLIP/PPP connections, you have more choices to make. First, you need low-level driver software that gives your PC the ability to speak TCP/IP. Windows uses additional (or equivalent) software, called "winsock" (for Windows socket), that lets Windows programs talk TCP/IP. All this black magic stuff usually comes bundled with your hardware connection. In EPA, network connections are handled by Novell LAN Work Group software. If you buy a SLIP/PPP connection from an access provider, the necessary drivers and accessories usually are part of the deal.

Then, you need software that will connect you to the EPA computer system, where AIRS lives, and emulate an IBM 3270 terminal. The generic name for this software is TN3270. [The "TN" part derives from Telnet, the name of Internet telecommunications software that emulates asynchronous terminals like VT-100.] A basic TN3270 program may be bundled with your "hardware" connect. If you want more features, such as integrated file transfer or the ability to display maps and charts in AIRS Graphics, you will need to buy terminal emulation software. For ease of use, we prefer Windows packages rather than DOS. We have tested **IRMA Work Station for Windows**, sold by DCA, and **Extra! for Windows**, sold by Attachmate. Both packages offer TN3270-type connections (plus several others), and both offer graphics terminal emulation as an extra-cost option. GSA prices for either package are about \$300 for the emulator program, plus another \$300 for the graphics option.

**This sounds complicated!**

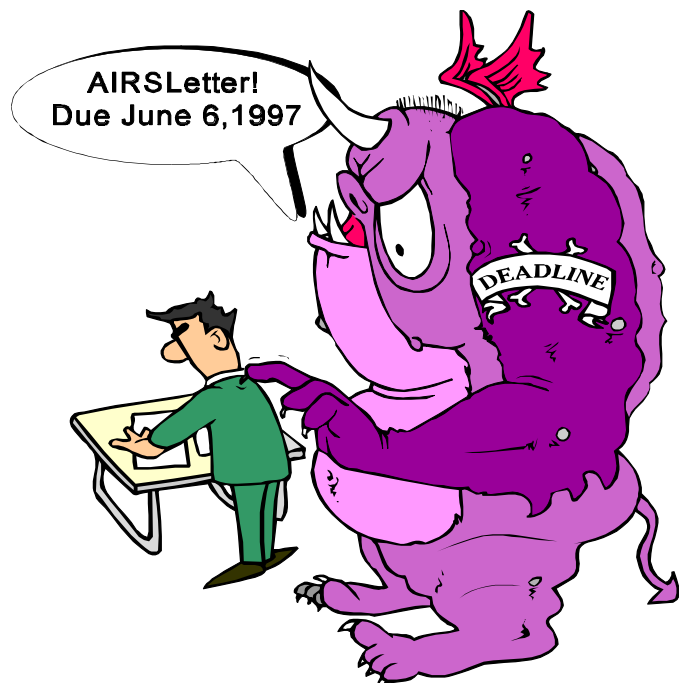
It really isn't that difficult. Both programs have fill-in-the-blank screens for configuring the software. Basically, you just pick TN3270 connection type and enter the Internet address of the EPA mainframe computer, [epaibm.rtpnc.epa.gov](http://epaibm.rtpnc.epa.gov). The software pretty much takes care of the rest.

## AIRSLetter Deadline for Summer Edition Set

by Jonathan Miller

AS you all my be aware, the AIRSLetter is a quarterly publication written, edited, and distributed by the Information Management Group of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication on any relevant topic. If you agency is having a conference or training that others may wish to attend, or whatever, write an article, send it in, and let people know!

If you would like to send in an article, please send via e-mail to [Miller.Jonathan@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Miller.Jonathan@epamail.epa.gov). Most word processing formats are acceptable. As always, the editor (that's me) reserves the right to make editorial changes. Please submit your articles by **Friday, June 6, 1997.**



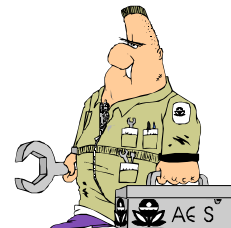


# AQS News

## AQS Re-engineering Project Entering System Modeling Phase

by Andrea Kelsey

The AQS Re-engineering Project Team has completed the Systems Requirements Analysis and Conceptual Systems Design, and has now moved into the Prototype and System Modeling Phase. The most recent major deliverable is the Conceptual Systems Design Document which details the scope of this new system by specifying the architecture, data, update process, and output capabilities. It includes the proposed changes listed in the last edition of this newsletter. The executive summary of this document is available on the AQS Re-engineering Home Page ([www.epa.gov/airs/reeng/](http://www.epa.gov/airs/reeng/)). If you would like the complete document, please request a copy from me. As usual, there are a few requirements that still need to be addressed. These are identified in this document and all topics will be discussed in depth at the AIRS Conference.



In addition to the document, we have also developed a PC working prototype that performs a subset of the system functions on a subset of the data base. The purpose of this prototype is to present the "look and feel of the graphical user interface of the system". It is a tool for the end users to provide feedback on what has been proposed. This prototype will be installed on a central UNIX server at the EPA National Computer Center. At this time, the AQS Re-engineering Team (ART) and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members can begin installing the software and reviewing this prototype directly from their desktops. At the AIRS Conference this prototype will be reviewed extensively to discuss and obtain end-user comments.

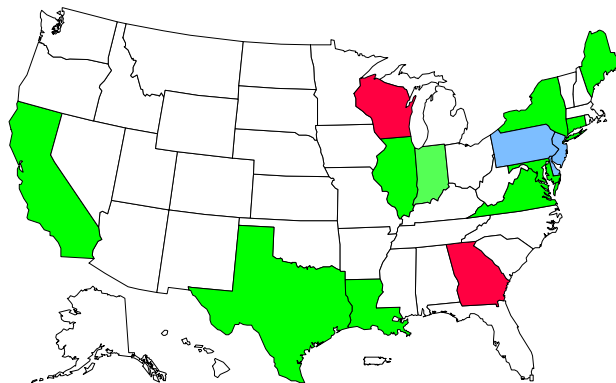
Since the client software must be installed on the desktop to test the UNIX prototype, we have also prepared some presentations that will demonstrate the prototype that anyone can view and provide comments. These presentations are in three formats. There is one designed for management, while the other two are SVGA and VGA versions of a technical presentation designed to provide the demonstration of more functionality for the end users. Hopefully, by the time you read this these presentations will be available for viewing and/or downloading from the AQS Reeng Home Page.

In addition to the design and prototype activity discussed above, our contractors are very busy with preparing the logical database design (entity relationship diagram) and functional hierarchy using the Oracle Designer 2000 CASE Tool. Soon, they will be producing the physical database design and working on the conversion of the live data from the current ADABAS database. Our plan is to have an Oracle database with live AQS data for the last 15 years available for end-user access in July, 97. This database will be accessible through a Web browser. Some initial query capabilities will be available that will be expanded when we are fully operational in April, 98. End users who have other tools available, such as SAS, Lotus, Excel, Powerbuilder, Oracle Discoverer 2000, etc. can access this database directly with these tools via SQL-NET..

We are entering the phase of the project where critical detailed decisions are being made. Therefore, we encourage you to review the presentations, documents, and test the prototype to give us your input before we start developing the software. Changes are less expensive if made before code is developed. We have essentially spent the last year determining the requirements of this system and are now beginning to build it. The earlier you get involved, the more likely we can incorporate your comments. The ART and TAG members have been participating for many months in this project and their contributions have been extremely valuable. Their continued efforts along with additional end-user feedback are critical to the success of this new system. Please take advantage of the opportunity to review the information provided and attend the AIRS Conference. Together we can have a successful new system.

## **“Monitor Type = U” Changes Going Well**

*by Jonathan Miller*



■ Completed      ■ State Will Change  
■ No Response      ■ Not Applicable

In the Winter '96 AIRSLetter, I explained the need for some of the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS) to change their monitor types to “U” if they had not been “officially” approved. As the map indicates, most of the affected sites have been completed. These changes will aid data analysts in the retrieving of PAMS data that have yet to be officially classified as PAMS in the AIRS data base. If you have any questions concerning how to change to the monitor type = U, please call Michael Hamlin at (919) 541-5232 or

Hamlin.Michael@epamail.epa.gov.

## **FY '97 Training Dates for Existing AQS Set**

*by Michael Hamlin*

There will be a three hands on training for the existing Air Quality Subsystem (AQS). This training will cover topics such as using TSO, screening files, developing Ad Hoc reports and retrieving data, just to name a few. Training for the Airs Quality Subsystem (AQS) is scheduled for three days and will take place in the following locations:



March 25, 1997:      EPA Region 9: 75 Hawthorne Street  
to March 27, 1997      San Francisco, CA 94105

April 29, 1997:      EPA Region 8: One Denver Place  
to May 1, 1997      999 18th Street  
Denver, CO 80202

To Be Determined      EPA: 79 TW Alexander Drive  
RTP, NC 27711

If there are any questions concerning the training or future training, please contact Michael W. Hamlin at (919) 541-5232.

## Modifications Being Made to AQS

by Michael Hamlin



Here is a list of software modifications and enhancements currently being worked on in AQS:

Requestor	Program Affected	Description	Status
Monitoring and Quality Assurance Group (MQAG)	New Standard Batch Report	New fixed format report for PAMS data	SRF #799 Partially operational in Development - Anticipated completion in FY96
David Lutz	AMP430 (Data Completeness)	Improper Calculations for Composite Lead Sites. Strange "0" header information is also produced	Being investigated under SRF #1021
MQAG	AMP390 (Site Monitor Status Report)	Being reformatted to display all fields contained on the Site and Monitor records	Being Modified under SRF #1022
AQS Helpline	AMP350	Terminates with natural error when most sort options are selected	Being investigated under SRF #1026
Jim Forrest (EPA Region 9)	New Screening File	Arizona Requested a new screening file (S04AQA02)	Being created under SRF #1028
Jonathan Miller	Voyager Compiler Program	Program does not allow entry of intervals other than 1 or 7.	Being created under SRF #1029
Jonathan Miller	AMP050	Table for number of monitors needs to be increased	Being created under SRF #1033
Jonathan Miller	AMP050	The edit program needs to be modified in two areas of sampling frequency.	Being created under SRF # 1037
Jonathan Miller	AMP600	AD-Hoc does not list out records from the hourly file for 2 sites in a selected area.	Being created under SRF # 1038
Jonathan Miller	AMP220	The default sort needs to be modified.	Being created under SRF # 1039
Jonathan Miller	AMP380	Data from the report does not appear in the report when monitor = U.	Being created under SRF # 1040

If you have found some strange items while creating reports, updating data, browsing, or whatever, call the AQS Helpline at 1-800-334-2405 and let them know.



## **AFS Batch Update Update**

*by Bill Frietsche*

Most of you know that we redesigned our batch update process last November (1996). Though we spent quite a bit of time and money testing the new software, some of you have found problems that we had overlooked. Users have reported enough "bugs" to put us in a "firefighting" mode since then.

When a new bug is reported, we first verify the problem. Then we assign a priority, based upon the severity of the problem. For example, any bug that results in "bad" data being updated to the database is the highest priority. We address these as quickly as possible, and include a step to repair any "damage" in the database.

The next highest priority bug is the type of bug that results in the user not being notified properly of failed transactions. Though these bugs do not affect the database, the users' may believe that they successfully updated their data when it was not.

A lower priority category of "bug" is one where the edited programs do not check for errors exactly like the update programs. What I mean by this is the following:

The new batch software lets you run a job through the edited mode first to see if your transactions are all valid. After you repair any failed transactions, you can submit the job as an update. Transaction validations were not working identically in both the edition and update programs for some transaction types. These also need to be fixed.

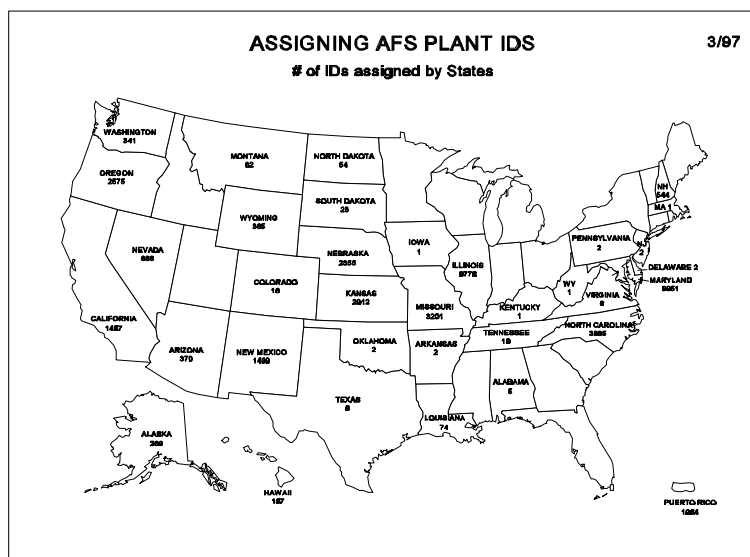
We would like to make enhancements, as well. For example, being able to delete all of the notification messages at once, rather than one at a time, would be a user-friendly improvement. But these are lower priority.

The good news is that we have made much progress. We have just about finished with the high priority list, which includes the first two types of bugs mentioned above. We have also been working with the Regional EPA offices to set up proper access rights for all users in the Region so that notification works properly.

We will continue working as quickly as possible and should be finished in the next few months. Just to give you the right perspective, this does not mean that you cannot use the new batch update process at this time. It is working properly for most transaction types. If you have questions, call the AFS Help line at 1-800-367-1044.

If you want to see details about particular bugs and work around procedures, look at the data set 'AIRA.AFS.BATCH'. Each member in this data set is a notification memo about some particular facet of a batch problem about which you should know. If you send me your E-mail address, I will add you to my mailing list for batch user notification memos. My E-mail address is 'Frietsche.Bill@epamail.epa.gov'.

ONE FINAL NOTE: The batch training manual has incorrect RACF set up procedures. Please disregard them and call the Regional Office or AFS Help line for the correct guidance, if you have a problem with the notification capabilities of the new batch update process. The memo outlining the [new procedures for establishing RACF profiles](#) is included as a separate article.



## Title V - Required Data Reporting

by Bill Frietsche

As you may know, the EPA requires reporting data about permits issued under Title V of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. I am referring to reporting who has a Title V permit, when the permitting authority drafted it, when the EPA received it, when the EPA review period ends, and issuance date of the permit. This is the scope of [required reporting about the administrative issuance process](#) for Title V permits.

The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) has drafted Title V [compliance reporting guidance](#), which has the additional requirements of establishing an air program record (of 'V' for Title V) along with a pollutant code of 'FACIL' and a compliance status indicating the facility's compliance status with the administrative requirements of Title V. The rest of this article refers only to reporting permit issuance data, as outlined in the first paragraph.

Users can enter these data elements on-line or via a batch update into AFS. To do so, however, they must establish an AFS Plant ID for the facility. The AFS Plant ID can be any ID up to 15 characters long. The permitting authority and EPA regional office should agree on the ID to be used as the AFS Plant ID. You can create the IDs all at once for all appropriate facilities, or one at a time as needed.

The attached graphic shows the status (March 10, 1997) of AFS Plant ID assignments. If you will be reporting Title V issuance data soon, please make sure you know how to set up these IDs. You can give me a call at (919) 541-5451.

## National MACT Training Campaign Completed

by Lillian Bradley

Over the past 4 months OAQPS jointly sponsored a 2-day MACT and a 1-day batch update training session in almost every region across the country. Training sessions were conducted in Kansas City, Philadelphia, Dallas, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, Atlanta and RTP. In total, 169 people participated in these on-site, hands-on training sessions.

The purpose of the MACT training was to familiarize the attendees with the basic structure of AFS and how to use the system to add, browse, retrieve and analyze HAP data. The sessions included lecture as well as hands-on sessions. The features of the MACT ranking report were also presented in detail. The batch training presented the new batch capabilities and reviewed the AFS utilities.

Now that the nationwide training effort is complete, States and locals are encouraged to enter HAP data into AFS. The focus of this project is to support EPA's MACT standard development process for the 10-year bin source categories. Also, the MACT enhancements are to support state agencies required to perform case-by-case MACT determinations. Additionally, the system will be able to answer other emission related questions concerning the health and condition of the air toxic program.

If you have any questions concerning the MACT enhancements, please call me at 919-541-5694.

## Envirofacts Provides Public AFS Data Via The Internet

by Lillian Bradley

In it's continuing effort to provide one-stop electronic access to EPA's national databases, the EPA's Envirofacts team has completed the first phase of it's Envirofacts/AFS project. With the exception of permit, MACT and compliance subpart data fields, all AFS data for the most current year is available to the public via the Envirofacts database system on the Internet. Permit, MACT and compliance subpart data fields will be added in the next phase of the project. The ENVIROFACTS Home Page can be found at URL [http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/ef\\_home.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/ef_home.html). The ENVIROFACTS Home Page can also be found linked off the EPA Home Page (<http://www.epa.gov/>) via the Data Systems and Software sub-category.

The next phase of the project includes the development of several additional queries to assist users in data retrieval. Currently, the Envirofacts Home Page provides limited retrieval capability. This phase will also include the addition of permit, MACT and compliance subpart data fields. Archived AFS data will also be added during this phase. This second phase is underway now. It is expected to be complete this calendar year.

If you have any questions about EPA's Envirofacts system, please contact Pat Garvey at 703-235-5571 or me at (919) 541-5694.

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**FYI:** *The following is a reprint of the memo sent to the Regional AFS Contacts about setting up RACF for the new AFS batch update process*

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**Subject:** Procedures for setting up RACF for the new AFS batch update process

RACF (resource allocation control facility) is the mainframe security process that determines if and how data sets can be shared between users and groups of users. The new batch update process makes use of shared data sets to provide certain functions. Therefore, if the RACF profiles are not set up properly for each user, these functions will not work properly.

Two functions that depend on proper RACF administration are:

- 1) Error Reports            The ability to share detailed error reports between users.
- 2) Central Update        The "central" batch update capability requires that RACF be set up properly.

An explanation of each of these follows:

### **Error Reports**

The notification screen lists the batch update jobs you have submitted, as well as the status of those jobs. The list will also include jobs submitted by other users for the facilities in a state when your user id is entered on the GeoCommon State Table record for that state.

If you type "P" next to the notification message for a job you submitted, you will print the transaction reports and error reports for that job. If you type "P" next to a notification message for a job submitted by a different user, you can also print their transaction and error reports, **provided that your RACF authority has been set up properly to allow read access to that user's report data set.**

### **Central Update**

You have the option of submitting your own batch update job or designating the system

Continued from "RACF Memorandum" - page 14

administrator to run the job for you during the night. We call this latter option the central update capability.

If you submit your own job, you can see the results almost immediately for a job time of five minutes or less with a priority of two. In this way, you can run many small batch jobs in one day, including utility jobs on the batch input utility file generated for submittal by the on-line utilities software.

Alternately, you may choose to have the system administrator run the job(s) for you, in which case your job(s) will be processed overnight as part of the central update process. Utility functions may also be submitted in this way. **For the central update to work properly, the user ID of JH1 must have 'Alter' access to the user's batch files.**

### **Setting up RACF**

The regional RACF Security Administrators (RSAs) can set up the necessary RACF. The AFS managers will have to supply the list of user ids to the RSA's. The users do not have to do anything. The procedure is:

The Regional RSA should establish a 'read' access level group. This 'read' group will include all of the user ids of the EPA Regional program people who will want to be able to oversee the states' failed update transactions.

The Regional RSA should also establish an 'alter' access level group. This group is for the Regional RSAs (for data set maintenance) and probably already exists.

After the RSA forms these two groups (or some similar arrangement to meet specific Regional needs) and the proper user IDs have been included in each group, then the RSA should modify the Region III JCL template to reflect the changes for the Region. The JCL will have to be modified to include the appropriate user id, account, and regional group names. The regional AFS managers will need to supply the RSAs with all of the appropriate user IDS.

After the JCL has been properly modified, then the RSA should run this JCL for every user id with AFS update access in the Region. This includes the State and Local user ids.

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The JCL template developed by RO III does the following:

- A) Deletes a profile if it already exists.  
It is easier than altering a profile & removing access.
- B) Creates a new RACF profile.
- C) Gives R3 RSA group (R03RSA) ALTER access.
- D) Gives R3 AIRS oversight group (R03AIRRD) READ access.
- E) Gives other members of billable account READ access.
- F) Gives the AFS Help line and technical support group (AIRTEKRD) READ access.
- G) Gives HQ production control user id "JH1" (AIRAFSAL) ALTER access.
- H) Lists the RACF data set profile that has been created.

To run this JCL, the RSA needs to:

- 1) Change the job card to reflect his own user id, account, fimas and bin.
- 2) Change all the 'uuu' to the user id of the AIRS user.
- 3) Change all the 'aaaa' to the account of the AIRS user.
- 4) Change R03RSA to the appropriate regional RSA group.
- 5) Change the R03AIRRD to the appropriate regional AIRS oversight group.

Continued from "RACF Memorandum" - pages 14-15

***Here is the actual JCL template:***

```
//HGAIR  JOB (QMO2FILSP,MHGA),RACFAIRS,PRTY=2,TIME=(1,30),  
// NOTIFY=HGA,MSGCLASS=A  
/*JOBPARM LINES=9999  
/*ROUTE PRINT HOLD  
//STEP01 EXEC PGM=IKJEFT01,REGION=3M  
//SYSTSPRT DD SYSOUT=A  
//SYSTSIN DD *  
DD 'UUUAAAA.AFSFILE.*'  
AD 'UUUAAAA.AFSFILE.*' OWNER(UUU) NOTIFY(UUU) UACC(NONE)  
PE 'UUUAAAA.AFSFILE.*' ID(R03RSA) ACCESS(ALTER)  
PE 'UUUAAAA.AFSFILE.*' ID(R03AIRRD) ACCESS(READ)  
PE 'UUUAAAA.AFSFILE.*' ID(AAAA) ACCESS(READ)  
PE 'UUUAAAA.AFSFILE.*' ID(AIRTEKRD) ACCESS(READ)  
PE 'UUUAAAA.AFSFILE.*' ID(AIRAFSAL) ACCESS(ALTER)  
LD DA('UUUAAAA.AFSFILE.*') ALL
```



I will be calling each region to set up a conference call to go over this. Find out who your RSAs are if you do not know, we need them in on the call. Call (or E-mail) me if you have questions. - Bill (919) 541-5451.

**This RACF procedure is different from that specified in the batch users training manual. This supersedes the training manual guidance. We need to inform State and Local users NOT to follow the training manual guidance.**

**I will be sending an E-mail out to that effect in the next batch user notification memo; please let your State/Local users know about this if they come to you with questions.**

